

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 194861

16

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 194861

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO
SUBJECT: COMMON NATO DATA

REFS: A. LONDON 10248
B. BONN 12583
C. STATE 173296
D. USNATO 4094

1. FOR EMBASSY LONDON. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 3 THRU 6 BELOW RESPONDS TO THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS RAISED BY TIDY IN MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS REPORTED REF A. EMBASSY LONDON IS REQUESTED TO DRAW ON THIS INFORMATION IN PRESSING UK MOD FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL TO GIVE GENERAL DISTRIBUTION TO THE DPQ "SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION TABLES".

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 194861

2. FOR EMBASSY BONN. IF EMBASSY BONN HAS NOT YET RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM MOD (AS APPEARED LIKELY FROM REF B), EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BELOW AS NECESSARY IN SEEKING AFFIRMATIVE FRG RESPONSE. WE WOULD LIKE TO GET ON WITH THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO PAVE WAY FOR US INITIATIVE IN NATO AS CONTEMPLATED REF C.

3. WHILE NO NATO DATA BASE CURRENTLY ANSWERS ALL REQUIREMENTS, MAKING THE SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION TABLES (SDT) AVAILABLE TO NATIONAL CAPITALS WILL ALLOW ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES

TO BEGIN ANALYSIS FROM A COMMON DATA SOURCE. UNLIKE THE MBFR DATA BASE, THE SDTS REFLECT NOT ONLY THE QUANTITATIVE BUT ALSO THE QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCES IN EQUIPMENT HELD BY NATO. THESE QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCES ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PERFORMANCE OF EQUIPMENT VARIES SO MUCH AMONG WEAPONS OF THE SAME TYPE. "MAIN BATTLE TANKS" CAN BE BOTH M48S AND CHIEFTAINS. IN USING SCORES SUCH AS STANDARD BATTLE GROUPS OR WEAPONS EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS TO COMPARE FORCES, THE QUALITY OF WEAPONS MAKES A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE.

THE TOE CONFERENCE CALLED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF INFORMATION NEEDED ON THE FORCES OF THE WARSAW PACT. THE SAME DETAIL SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON THE FORCES OF NATO COUNTRIES. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UK DATA USED AT DOAE AND THE US MBFR GROUND DATA ARE GREAT ENOUGH TO CAUSE A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE ALLIANCE CAPABILITY. AS EXAMPLES, THERE IS A 14 PERCENT DIFFERENCE IN MAIN BATTLE TANKS, A 29 PERCENT DIFFERENCE IN BATTALION HEADQUARTERS, AND AN 81 PERCENT DIFFERENCE IN ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. THESE BASIC DATA ISSUES MUST BE RAISED AND SETTLED BEFORE MORE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES CAN BE SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSED.

WE CANNOT USE IS AGGREGATIONS. THEY DO NOT PROVIDE THE DETAIL WE NEED, AND THEY ARE FREQUENTLY SCREENED THROUGH UNSTATED ASSUMPTIONS.

4. THE PRESENT SYSTEM ALLOWS THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 194861

CONDUCT ALL ANALYSES USING THE NATO PROVIDED DATA, BUT SEVERELY LIMITS ABILITY OF NATIONAL CAPITALS TO CONDUCT OR DISTRIBUTE ANY ANALYSIS USING THE SAME DATA TO VERIFY INTERNATIONAL ANALYSES. AS INDICATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, THE SDT DATA IS IN BETTER DETAIL AS CONCERN'S QUALITY OF WEAPONS. IN THE CASE OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT INFORMATION, THE DIFFERENCE IN DATA IS STILL MORE SIGNIFICANT. FOR EXAMPLE, STOCKS ARE GENERALLY EXPRESSED IN NUMBER OF DAYS,

WHICH ARE SUBJECTIVE AND SCENARIO DEPENDENT. IF THE NUMBER OF ROUNDS WERE KNOWN, A BETTER VIEW OF NATO CAPABILITY COULD BE OBTAINED.

5. WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A COMMON DATA BASE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. OUR DESIRE TO CREATE SUCH A DATA BASE SHOULD NOT BE RELATED TO ANY SPECIFIC ISSUE SUCH AS MBFR, BUT RATHER IS AN EFFORT TO ALLOW ALL NATO COUNTRIES TO UTILIZE AGREED DATA IN THEIR STUDIES AND ANALYSES. WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE PROPOSAL TO NATO BEFORE THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING.

6. AS TO THE SECURITY OF THE DATA IN NATIONAL CAPITALS, IT SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS THAT PROVIDED BY THE NATO STAFF ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT MULTIPLE HOLDINGS OF THE DATA WILL NECESSARILY INCREASE THE RISK OF COMPROMISE SOMEWHAT. KISSINGER

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